

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reexamination and reconsideration of claims 1, 2, 5-27, as amended, and new claims 28-32, in view of this supplemental amendment and the following:

The Interview

Applicant acknowledges the kindness of the Examiner in granting Applicant's representative the courtesy of an interview on May 9, 2006. Although agreement regarding allowance of the application was not reached at the interview, the Examiner and Applicant's representative discussed the cited references and proposed amendments to the claims which would be considered upon filing of a supplemental amendment.

The Amendments

Claims 1 and 21, both independent, and therefore dependent claims 2, 5-20 and 22-26, have been amended to require that a grille is mounted and secured to the flange extending outwardly from the housing with respect to the at least one aperture. Claims 3 and previously reciting a grille mounted to the flange, although removably mounted thereto, have been cancelled. As Applicant's representative pointed out at the interview, in the Nordlin reference relied upon as showing a foraminous screen 74 (Figs. 2-4), the screen is not mounted and secured to the upper end of the port 30. In Nordlin, the screen is pivoted away from the port 30 when it is desired to insert a hose into the port, and the screen cams back against the hose to hold the hose in place, as shown in Nordlin's Fig. 7, and taught at Column 6, lines 34-45. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references (see the Action, page 2 bottom paragraph) fail to teach or suggest

Applicant's claims wherein a grille is mounted and secured to the flange about the aperture providing assurance that both an operator's hands and debris do not enter or pass through the aperture, and is adapted to allow other devices to be mounted to the flange, such as a conduit as specified in several of the dependent claims..

Applicant's new claims 28-32 similarly require a grille mounted and secured to the flange with respect to the aperture, which, it is respectfully submitted as noted above, is not taught or suggested by the cited references. Claims 28-32 additionally, like claims 1 and 21, recite that the housing has at least one vertically adjustable member to support the fume exhauster and dryer on the surface referenced in the preamble. In claims 28-32 the at least one vertically adjustable member is mounted to the bottom of the housing, rather than to a supporting member, which in turn is secured to the bottom of the housing, as in claims 1, 2 and 5-27.

The Prior Amendment

Applicant requests that the prior Amendment A, filed February 21, 2006, be incorporated herein. In Amendment A, Applicant pointed out wherein the cited references, alone or in the combinations asserted in the Action, failed to anticipate of claims 1, 2 and 5-27 or make those obvious to one skilled in the art. While Applicant believes his claims were so distinguished, claims 1, 2 and 5-26 have been amended to further clearly claim and distinguish his invention over the cited art.

In the prior Amendment A, Claim 27 was amended to specify that the filter support is fixedly secured to the exhauster and dryer housing adjacent and with respect to the portion of the housing defining the exhaust aperture. Applicant respectfully pointed out that Wilkins, relied upon as showing a filter, taught only temporarily or releasably

holding the filter support ring 2 to the housing by magnets. Thus contrary to Claim 27, Wilkins fails to disclose or suggest Applicant's fixed securement of the filter support to the exhauster and dryer.

* * *

For the reasons stated above and in prior Amendment A, Applicant respectfully submits that he has shown that claims 1, 2 and 5-32 are not taught or suggested, and are not obvious to one skilled in the art at the time Applicant made his invention from the combinations of Chaurushia et al. in view of Hull, and in further view of Nordlin or Wilkins. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections of claims under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gerald S. Schur
WELSH & KATZ, LTD.
120 S. Riverside Plaza, 22nd Fl.
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 526-1565 (direct line)
(312) 655-1501 (facsimile)
gsschur@welshkatz.com